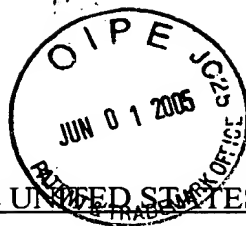


210029US3 DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
Yuji MATSUYAMA, et al. : EXAMINER: JOLLEY, K.
SERIAL NO: 09/886,213 :
FILED: June 22, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1762
FOR: HEAT TREATMENT : DATE ALLOWED: March 3, 2005
METHOD, HEAT
TREATMENT APPARATUS
AND TREATMENT
SYSTEM

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

The following comment is in response to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance provided in the Notice of Allowability dated March 3, 2005.

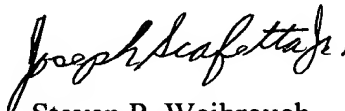
The Statement of Reasons For Allowance included on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability states that the prior art does not “teach or fairly suggest a method of heat-treating a coated substrate in a heating chamber while controlling/lowering an oxygen concentration of the heat-treatment atmosphere....” The Applicants submit that this statement does not reflect the claimed subject matter recited in allowed independent Claims 35 and 36 of the present application. Claims 35 and 36 do not recite controlling/lowering an oxygen concentration of the heat-treatment atmosphere, as suggested by the Statement.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance does not accurately reflect the subject matter recited in Claims 35 and 36, and thus the Applicants submit that the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is not applicable to Claims 35 and 36.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

Joseph Scafetta, Jr.
Registration No. 26,803

SPW:CDW:brf

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